

21 March 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bureau Chiefs

FROM: Acting Chief, FBIS

SUBJECT: Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. FBIS-BBC Coordination Meeting: The annual FBIS-BBC coordination meeting is scheduled to take place in Washington in late May. Bureau Chiefs are invited to submit suggestions for possible discussion. [redacted]

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2. RED FLAG Article: The following memorandum was received from Mr. Roger Hilsman, Director of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State:

"The Bureau of Intelligence and Research greatly appreciates FBIS' expeditious handling of the Chinese Communist manifesto against Soviet policy which appeared in the March issue of RED FLAG. We are particularly grateful that the (45,000 word) article was disseminated over FBIS' intragovernmental wire, enabling us to provide the Secretary with rapid analyses without delay." [redacted]

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3. Cuban Videotape Recordings: FBIS has undertaken to provide full videotape recordings of significant speeches by major Cuban leaders, in addition to taping at least one Havana TV newscast daily. Key West's videotape efforts to date have drawn warm and enthusiastic praise from consumers. [redacted]

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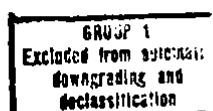
4. Shipping Briefs: Considerable interest has been shown in the information resulting from the "shipping briefs" requirement levied on all bureaus in February. The material--initially passed to the Defense and Interior Departments--is now also given to ORR and to the Maritime Administration, which is responsible for monitoring ship movements to and from Cuba. [redacted]

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5. Analysis Item on the Wire: A massive Chinese Communist propaganda effort built around the "martyrdom" of a production worker (whose hardly heroic death was acknowledged by NCNA to have resulted from a blow on the head from a falling pole) was reviewed in a propaganda-analysis item on the Wire which pointed up the puritannical character of the Chinese Communist version of the old Soviet "Stakhanovite" movement. [redacted]

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S-E-C-R-E-T



SUBJECT: Letter of Information

6. Special Service on Tibet: RFB is briefing a special consumer weekly on monitored items regarding Tibet, particularly items which might shed light on CPR operations against India. [redacted]

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7. Radio Propaganda Reports: [redacted]

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a. CD. 221, "Havana's Revolutionary Program for Latin America," was issued as Report No. 4 in the series on Cuban media. Report No. 5, issued as CD. 224, covered Havana propaganda surrounding Venezuelan President Betancourt's February visits to the United States, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic, tracing Havana's propaganda support for Venezuelan guerilla efforts to disrupt the plans for the visit and the Cuban regime's subsequent reaction to the success of the tour.

b. CD. 222, on "The Third Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Conference," reviewed Communist China's successful use of this regional front meeting to press its propaganda line against Moscow's.

c. CD. 223 analyzed the development of "The Sino-Soviet Conflict from September 1962 to Mid-March 1963," from Khrushchev's abrupt switch to a conciliatory Soviet line at the SED congress last September to the shrill polemical diatribes from Peking that preceded this month's Sino-Soviet exchange of letters on bilateral talks.

d. RS. 55, "The Concept of Dictatorship of the Proletariat: Sore Point Between Peking and the Soviet 'Revisionists,'" discusses one dimension of the Sino-Soviet ideological quarrel.

8. Daily Report Supplements: Three Daily Report Supplements were issued. The first of these, published 19 February, dealt with the proceeding of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Conference in Moshi, Tanganyika. The second, published 6 March, comprised the 110-page text of the Peking RED FLAG article on differences with Togliatti which stated the CCP's basic views on the whole Sino-Soviet conflict. The third, published 8 March, was the People's Daily attack on a statement of the CPUSA. [redacted]

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9. Supplement Distribution: Official consumers required hundreds of extra copies of supplements and sets of pages from the regular Daily Report containing items relating to the Sino-Soviet polemic. In order to make the FBIS product more readily available to scholars and research experts throughout the country, arrangements were made to distribute unclassified Daily Report supplements to the 50-odd libraries and universities which

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information

regularly receive the "white book" through the facilities of the Documents Expediting Project at the Library of Congress. These publications are also distributed on microfilm to additional libraries through the facilities of the LOC's Photoduplication Service. [REDACTED]

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10. Daily Report "Revamping": Studies on the possibilities of revising Daily Report production procedures have continued. In hopes of getting Flexowriter-offset advantages while keeping within Daily Report deadline limitations, studies are being made toward developing prototype equipment which could use incoming teletype tapes for mat production. Meanwhile Flexowriter production of the Latin America Daily Report has continued, a Daily Report Supplement was offset printed on 19 February, and the same method has been used for the "Pink Sheet" since 1 March. It is now planned to print portions of other Daily Report books with the new method on an ad hoc basis in lieu of regular Flexowriter production of the Latin America Daily Report. [REDACTED]

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11. Press Scrutiny: In February 87 percent of Daily Report pages were devoted to radio broadcast material and 13 percent to press scrutiny. [REDACTED]

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FIELD OPERATIONS AND ENGINEERING

12. Communications: [REDACTED]

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a. At Key West Bureau's request, an FBIS station call sign, RUCKUTI, was obtained. A call sign distinct from others at the Key West Naval Station will facilitate receipt and dispatch of FBIS traffic.

b. Following a most unusual interruption of Headquarters communications due to water damage to a telephone cable under Pennsylvania Avenue, steps were taken to route FBIS circuits through different exchanges. The purpose of this dispersal of circuit paths is to preclude a recurrence of the near total disruption of traffic which occurred on 6/7 March.

c. The Nigerian External Communications Limited (NECOM) took over from Cable and Wireless Limited in Lagos in January. The African Bureau has been assured that NECOM will provide the same quality of service as did C & W.

- 3 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information

13. Tokyo Embassy Fire: On 5 February at 0530 GMT an explosion followed by fire in the basement of the American Embassy Annex disrupted all electric service and forced evacuation of the building because of smoke and fumes. Operations could not be resumed until 1000 GMT, and then on a limited scale using emergency power. During the night of 5 February, a faulty overloaded switch caused further disruption, and it was not until 0300 GMT 6 February that a 30 KW generator provided by the US Army stabilized the situation. Until then, FBIS was the only office permitted emergency power. City Power was restored through a temporary arrangement on 8 February. Permanent restoration will take many weeks. The Okinawa Bureau made backstop recordings of programs assigned to the Tokyo Bureau until normal operations were resumed. [redacted]

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14. Equipment Development and Modernization: The mobile monitoring unit being fabricated at the East Coast Bureau was 90% complete at the end of February. All audio and coaxial lines had been run in the van and were ready for hookup. As the result of evaluation tests conducted at ECB on possible replacement radio receivers for the 5LJ-4 receiver currently in service, it was decided that the R-390A/URR military version receiver with digital readout of frequency will become standard for FBIS over its frequency range. Headquarters will prepare requisitions for distribution of the new units to the field. Headquarters forwarded FBIS-standardized, transistorized monitor amplifier-control panels to certain field bureaus for testing and evaluation. QRL-2B interference suppressors were installed at the Hokkaido and Saigon Bureaus. DL-17 magnetic recorders were installed at the Key West Bureau. Individual Yagi antennas, cut to frequency for each television channel, have achieved consistent fair-to-good picture reception of Beirut television transmissions at the Mediterranean Bureau pending receipt of broadband antennas now on order. A prototype of an FBIS teletype line counter for Model 28 communication equipment was completed at ECB and turned over to the Office of Communications for evaluation. [redacted]

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ADMINISTRATION

15. Fitness Reports: Fitness Reports must be pouched to Headquarters to arrive before the required "due date." Bureaus are required to initiate reassignment fitness reports without advice from Headquarters. [redacted]

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16. Regulatory Issuance: The following regulatory issuance was disseminated: [redacted]

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- 4 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

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EDITORIAL

GENERAL

1. The Mediterranean Bureau's rapid handling of material dealing with the 8 March Syrian coup elicited high praise from FBIS Wire consumers. The bureau's initial YY on the coup, filed at 0504 GMT, took five minutes in transit, and cleared the FBIS Wire at 0510 within one minute of receipt. This was 49 minutes before the first item was carried by the Associated Press and 61 minutes before Reuters.

2. Extreme care should be taken in the translation of military ranks into U.S. equivalents, and whenever there is doubt about the equivalents, the original language, transliterated when necessary, should be included in brackets. An example of a possible pitfall: the German rank "general-major" is the equivalent of a U.S. brigadier general.

3. It would be appreciated if, whenever possible, the foreign-language name of less known newspapers and periodicals were used in copy. If English translations are used, retain the original name as well, since names of publications are not listed by English title.

4. TTU will eventually change all Arabic "ullah" endings to "allah," such as Abdallah for Abdullah, Kayrallah for Kayrullah, etc. Future cabinet and diplomatic lists will reflect this change, but corrections will not be issued for individual names on existing lists. Bureaus should therefore revise their own lists accordingly.

Okinawa and West Coast Bureaus

Recent FYI's--including roundups and editorial reports--such as those concerning the Lei Feng case, drought reports, and meetings and rallies were greatly appreciated. It would be very useful for facilitating organization of the Daily Report and saving space if information on processing plans, especially of speeches mentioned, were included in such FYI's.

Tokyo Bureau

Many of the bureau's items contain very short lines, which complicate page counting. Adherence to the standard teletype line would be appreciated.

Mediterranean Bureau

FBIS consumers were warmly appreciative of the significant Kurdish-language materials monitored from the Peyk-e Iran radio following the anti-Qasim coup d'etat in Iraq.

U-N-C-L-A-S-S-I-F-I-E-D

SUBJECT: Letter of Information

FIELD OPERATIONS

1. Cruising Efforts: Mediterranean Bureau cruising efforts in connection with coverage of the Syrian coup--like those relating to the Iraqi coup--were exceptionally fine, furnishing Headquarters with prompt and comprehensive reports on this significant development.

2. Broadcasting Stations of the World: The first or "correction" printing for Broadcasting Stations of the World was made during March. A mid-April target date has been set for the "finished" or publication run.

ADMINISTRATION

1. Travel Orders: When requesting travel orders, bureaus are asked to be specific about what should be included.

2. Imprest Fund Vouchers: Imprest fund cashiers are requested to indicate the conversion dollar amount on each receipt attached to the imprest fund voucher.

3. New Employee:

Assignment

Analyst, Bloc Internal Affairs Section,
RFB

STAT

4. Reassignment:

From

To

Editor
Editorial Branch

Editor
East Coast Bureau

STAT

STAT

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